

San Ellsberg

MEMORANDUM

To: A. S. Mengel 10-20-69
From: R. A. Levine M-7323
Subject: YOUR MEMO M-7221-1 OF 16 OCTOBER 1969
Copies to: Management Committee

Just to set the record straight, and to keep all Rand research from being swept up in the Letters flap, it is not the case that the OEO contract is even more restrictive than Project Rand. The OEO clause you quote does require advance notification, but it does not require clearance. It is part of a policy that I mostly wrote to specifically abdicate any rights of clearance OEO might have. It is worth noting that Sargent Shriver, than whom nobody could be more sensitive about the political implications of something like this, signed off on this policy--in fact, had requested it himself.

The reason for Shriver's move was that he was being heavily criticized by members of the Congress, including the Representative from Wisconsin, Mr. Laird, for suppressing information. One might think, after Dugway, C-105, and the current difficulties over enlisted men's clubs, that DOD might see some political wisdom in this course. Particularly since the Moss Freedom of Information Act, I believe, makes such hiding of information illegal except for security matters and administrative stuff internal to federal agencies. (It may be that the Moss Act applies to civilian agencies only; however; I don't know.

In any case, any politically sensitive organization that gives the appearance of suppressing information increases its political troubles, particularly if the information is already out anyhow.

R. A. Levine

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